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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

South Africa:* draft resolution

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,[1] the letter dated 17 August 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly[2] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Recalling Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1701 (2006) of 11 August 2006, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2007 and authorized an increase in the strength of the Force to a maximum of 15,000 troops,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 60/278 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005 and 60/278,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/61/588.

[2] A/60/986.

[3] A/61/616.

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and 60/278, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the Force as at 31 October 2006, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 67.9 million United States dollars, representing some 2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-eight Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307 and 60/278;

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307 and 60/278;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

8. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

9. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

11. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

12. *Takes note* of the proposal for the establishment of the Office of Political and Civil Affairs, as contained in paragraph 19 of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure, in reviewing the organizational structure of the Force, that it is in conformity with the mandate of the Force;

13. *Notes* the measures being undertaken by the Secretary-General, as set out in his letter;[2]

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further elaborate the rationale for and status of those measures implemented in the context of his next budget submission, during the first part of the resumed sixty-first session;

15. *Emphasizes* that the approval of commitment authority in no way implies approval of the establishment of posts or the creation of new functions;

16. *Recalls* section VIII of its resolution 60/266 of 30 June 2006, and, mindful of the significantly increased size and the increased area of operation of the Force, decides to authorize the provision of 500,000 dollars for quick-impact projects;

17. *Decides* to authorize, without setting a precedent, the utilization of an amount not exceeding 750,000 dollars for temporary fuel assistance for the Force to assist the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces in southern Lebanon;

18. *Reaffirms* its resolution 59/296, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its relevant provisions and the relevant provisions of its resolution 60/266;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

21. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of its resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of its resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of its resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of its resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of its resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of its resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of its resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of its resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of its resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of its resolution 59/307 and paragraph 17 of its resolution 60/278, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its current session;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007

22. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Force for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 in a total amount not exceeding 257,340,400 dollars, inclusive of the amount of 50 million dollars previously authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions under the terms of section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994 and in addition to the amount of 97,579,600 dollars already appropriated for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 under the terms of its resolution 60/278;

23. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 in a total amount not exceeding 2,486,900 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and in respect of the backstopping of the Force at Headquarters;

Financing of the commitment authority

24. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 257,340,400 dollars for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 for the expansion of the Force, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256 of 23 December 2003, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2006, as set out in its resolution 58/1 B of 23 December 2003, and the scale of assessments for 2007;[4]

25. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 24 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the amount of 2,305,800 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Force;

26. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

27. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Force;

28. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

29. *Decides* to keep under review during its sixty-first session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

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[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.